

of *Torvamurex territus* were found depositing egg capsules on the posterior margins of the valves of live *Pinna bicolor* shells which were in their usual living state—vertically embedded in the sand with only an inch or two of the shell exposed. In each case capsules had been deposited on both right and left valves, but many more on one valve than on the other.

One month later, on 20th May, when the tide was again suitably low, a search of the same area revealed about 20 groups of similar capsules all on *Pinna* shells except two which were on the sides of small rocks. All but one or two of the *Pinna* shells had capsules on both valves; the greatest number noted on any one valve was about 80. Some of the groups appeared darker than the others and contained brown shelled embryos. Only one specimen of *territus* was found depositing eggs on this occasion. The parent shells varied in size, the largest being 58 mm. and the smallest 30 mm. in length.

Over the years I have taken only three or four living specimens of this species in the Shoal Point area, always on sand and not always near rocks. Dead specimens, often in good condition, with hermit crabs are frequently found.

Acknowledgements: The authors wish to express their thanks to Miss J. Hope Macpherson, of the National Museum of Victoria, who identified the specimens and elucidated the nomenclature; to Mr. A. M. of Plates 2 and 3; and to Mr. W. McNutt, of the Microscopy Laboratory, University of Melbourne, for the photomicrograph of Plate 4. University of Melbourne, for the photomicrograph of Plate 3.

REFERENCES

- ANDERSON, D. T., 1960. The life histories of marine prosobranch gastropods. *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.*, 4: 26.
FRETTER, V., and GRAHAM, A., 1962. *British prosobranch molluscs: their functional anatomy and ecology.* (Ray Society, London.)
HEDLEY, C., 1916. Studies on Australian mollusca. Part III. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.*, 41: 712.

A NEW DEEP-WATER CHITON (POLYPLACOPHORA: CHITONIDAE) FROM EASTERN AUSTRALIA

By K. L. MILNE *

Text figs. 1-5

COMPONOCHITON gen. nov.

Type Species: *Componochiton raceki* sp. nov.

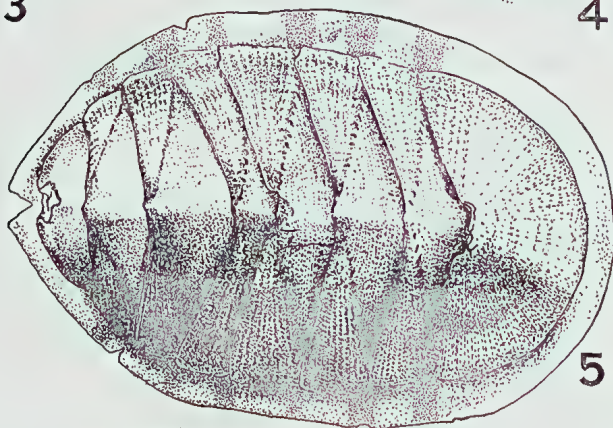
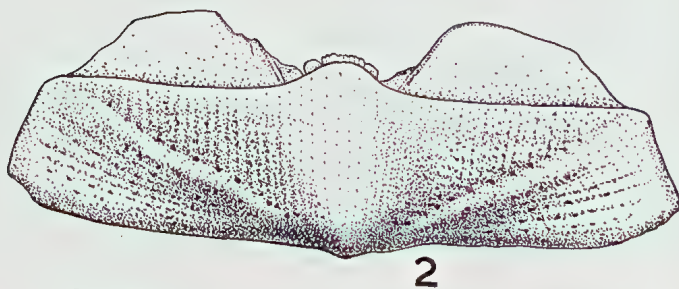
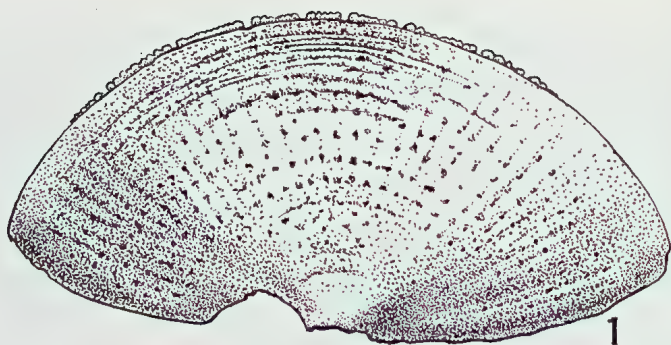
Description: Shell medium sized, elongate oval, very elevated, whole shell pitted in rows, medium valves with lateral areas raised and pitted, posterior valve mucro terminal with postmucronal area comprising only a lip, girdle scales minute closely but irregularly packed, girdle split at posterior extremity; sutural laminae long; slitting, anterior valve 13 (pectinated) median valves 1, becoming degenerate in valves 5, 6 and 7, posterior valve unslit.

Componochiton raceki sp. nov.

Description: Shell medium sized, preserved holotype approximately 16 mm. long and 11 mm. wide, elongate oval, very elevated, carinate, side slopes straight near jugum then slightly convex, whole shell pitted.

Colour salmon pink, changing to rose pink towards the girdle and insertion areas.

* 14 Burlington Street, Walkerville, Adelaide, South Australia.



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

Componochiton raceki sp. nov.

- Fig. 1. Anterior Valve, Paratype. X 10.
- Fig. 2. Median Valve, Paratype. X 10.
- Fig. 3. Lateral view of Posterior Valve, Paratype. X 100.
- Fig. 4. Girdle scales, Paratype. X 100.
- Fig. 5. Whole animal, Holotype. X 5.

Anterior valve obsoletely rayed with numerous very fine ribs (between 65 and 70), apex smooth, otherwise pitted in rows, approximately down ribs and along growth lines.

Median valves with lateral areas raised, also ribbed and pitted similar to anterior valve, with 8-10 obsolete radiating ribs. Central areas almost smooth, with finer pitting than on lateral areas, smooth on dorsal area. There is a row of larger and deeper pits on each diagonal (i.e. the anterior edge of each lateral area) which could be aesthetes (ocelli).

Posterior valve mucro terminal, ante-mucronal area carinated and sculptured as in central areas of median valves; postmucronal area comprises only a lip on each side of the mucro, running from the posterior extremity to edge of valve no. 7, formed of growth lines, but unlike growth lines of other valves.

Girdle wide, with closely but irregularly packed minute scales of nearly uniform size. Colour ochreous with 7 red-brown bands, situated approximately opposite the junctions between the valves. Girdle split at posterior extremity. Underside of girdle made up of silvery asbestoid fibres, extending well beneath insertion plates.

Interior pale pink—paler at sutural laminae, stained with brown under the jugum. Slitting 13-1-0 becoming degenerate in valves 5, 6 and 7. Anterior valve teeth pectinated. Posterior valve not actually slit, but with two flat nodules on each side of the posterior extremity creating grooves which appear at first glance to be slits. Sutural laminae large for size of shell, sinus medium to small, base of sinus pectinated in some median valves.

Types and Type Locality: The holotype in the Australian Museum, Sydney, No. C.63297 (whole shell in alcohol), was taken on "Challenge" trawl 318 from a depth of 160 fathoms, east of Newcastle, New South Wales at night. The paratype specimen (disarticulated) in the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, No. F.23568, was taken on another "Challenge" trawl from 75 fathoms off Port Stephens, New South Wales, at day break, on 3rd July, 1959.

Range: In deep water (75-160 fathoms) off central New South Wales.

Remarks: Both specimens were collected by Dr. A. A. Racek, while on board the prawn-survey vessel m.v. "Challenge" in 1959.

The two specimens examined have an unpitted zone about 2 mm. wide on extremities of valves 1-7 which is pinker, smoother and cleaner than the rest of the valve, as if new growth were this colour, the pits developing later and the colour changing or fading to salmon-pink.

The characters described are consistent in the two specimens examined, therefore it is reasonable to assume that the characters are distinctive.

This is evidently a new species which does not conform to any of the genera described by Iredale and Hull (1927) in their "Monograph of the Australian Loricates". Therefore I have proposed for it the new generic name *Componochiton*, which has been chosen to indicate that its characters are a mixture of those of a number of other genera.

The anterior valve resembles that of the genus *Rhyssoplax*, but has many more slits. The median valves have long sutural laminae similar to *Rhyssoplax*, and have a single slit, while the posterior valve resembles in form that of the genus *Poneroplax*. The girdle has the posterior slit seen in *Lorica*, but the scales are very minute and not striate, resembling those of *Stenochiton pilsbryanus*.

REFERENCE

IREDALE, T., and HULL, A. F. B., 1927. *A Monograph of the Australian Loricates*. Royal Zool. Soc. N.S.W., Sydney.